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PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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12 PETS OF CHRISTMAS ADOPTION PROMOTION & TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) would like to remind potential adopters about the Found Animals sponsored promotion, *The Twelve Pets of Christmas* going on now through December 24, 2012. Adopters can take advantage of \$40 off of a dog adoption and/or \$30 off of a cat adoption by visiting <http://www.foundanimals.org/twelve-pets-of-christmas> for a coupon. The promotion is valid at all DACC locations and other local animal control agencies. Visit the website for a complete list of participating locations.

In the midst of holiday season, DACC would also like to offer pet owners a few helpful tips as we celebrate the holiday season. "We can get so caught up with all of the holiday festivities, but let's not forget about our four-legged family members. Our pets rely on us to keep them safe, so keep these tips in mind as you celebrate the holidays," said DACC Director, Marcia Mayeda.

- Never feed or allow your pets to eat chocolate or other holiday candies. Chocolate is poisonous to dogs and cats and can cause serious illness or death to your pet if ingested.
- Shiny ornaments on Christmas trees can be particularly attractive to curious pets. Dogs and cats can suffer serious injuries by chewing and swallowing pieces of tree ornaments.
- Many people add special liquid preservatives to the water in Christmas tree stands. Some of these products are harmful to pets that may drink from the water. Be sure to ask if your Christmas tree is "pet safe," before you buy it.
- Keep holiday season plants and flowers away from your pets. Many plants, such as Poinsettias, Christmas candles, English Holly, Christmas Berry, Christmas Rose, and Mistletoe are poisonous to cats and dogs.
- Gift-wrappings can pose risks to dogs and cats. Your pets may be tempted to chew on wrapping paper or ribbon, which can be harmful if swallowed.
- Electrical wiring is tempting for cats to play with and dogs to chew, but can cause serious injury or death if they are electrocuted. Please keep all wiring out of reach from pets.
- Turkey is a particular favorite during the holiday season, but the bones easily splinter and should not be given to pets. Bone splinters can puncture an animal's gastro-intestinal tract, causing internal injury, which could result in death.
- Keep your pets away from alcoholic beverages. Do not let anyone offer a "sample" of your favorite libation to a pet.

In addition to ensuring your pet's safety, DACC would also like to advise the public of its holiday hours for the remainder of 2012:

- **Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 2012:** All DACC locations will be open 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- **Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, 2012:** All DACC locations will be open for limited operations. Residents may only relinquish animals or pick-up their impounded pet if it is determined to be at the shelter. DACC facilities will not be open for adoptions.
- **New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31, 2012:** All DACC locations will be open 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- **New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2013:** All DACC facilities will be open for limited operations. Residents may only relinquish animals or pick-up their impounded pet if it is determined to be at the shelter. The facilities will not be open for adoptions.

For more information about DACC, find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CountyofLosAngelesAnimalCare, or follow us on Twitter @LACoAnimalCare.

